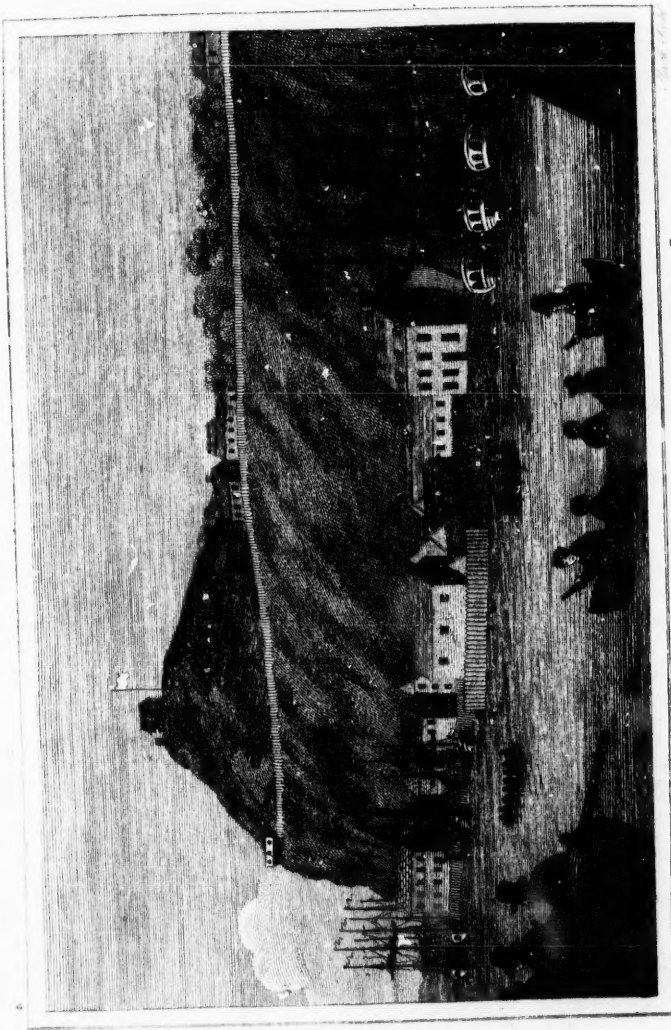




Cape Diamond and part of the Lower Town of Quebec. 9

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THE
AMERICAN TRAVELLER,

And EMIGRANT'S GUIDE ;

CONTAINING

A Description of the British Possessions

IN NORTH AMERICA ;

PARTICULARLY QUEBEC, MONTREAL, LA CHINE, AND THE
FLOURISHING TOWN OF KINGSTON, IN THE CANADAS ;
OF HARTFORD, IN CONNECTICUT,

The Paradise of the United States ;

AND

VARIOUS EXTRACTS FROM THE LETTERS OF EMIGRANTS.

Designed as a Supplement to the

"AFRICAN TRAVELLER ;

"OR, SELECT LIVES, VOYAGES AND TRAVELS."

"EMIGRATION is an unavoidable result of the general state of the Country, arising from causes above all controul, and itself of essential consequence to the tranquility and permanent welfare of the Kingdom."....**LORD SELKIRK.**

"For when a Country is so much crowded with People, that the price of the means of subsistence is above the ratio of their industry, Marriages are restrained ; but when EMIGRATION, to a certain degree takes place, the balance between the means of subsistence and industry is restored, and population thereby revived."....**DR. RUSS.**

Shrewsbury :

Printed and Published by **C. HULBERT.**

1817.

PREFACE.

IN COMPILING the EMIGRANTS' GUIDE, the Editor has inserted no information or intelligence which he conceives to be too highly coloured. The extracts are from sensible and judicious Travellers—The original Letters, from private individuals of integrity, and not intended for publication, but for the information of the relatives and friends of their respective writers—they are therefore void of every degree of literary embellishment; their simplicity will, notwithstanding, sufficiently recommend them.

While this Pamphlet was in the press, the editor was favoured with the sight of several judicious and well written Letters from a gentleman of respectability and considerable talent, formerly a resident in the county of Salop. From one of them he presents his readers with the following extract, which appears to be an answer to questions formerly proposed to the writer, by the gentleman to whom the letter is addressed—It is dated PORTLAND, Maine, 14th June, 1807 :

"Four Hundred Pounds would be sufficient to set you down for life, to support (with a moderate share of industry) your family in comfort and independence, and in three or four years at most, to obtain an annual increase of capital of at least £300—add to all this, that your land would every year become more valuable, and would not fail to be a handsome Estate for your family. This description is not over coloured; but from my own observation, together with the best information I have been able to collect, I can assure you it may be realized. No doubt there are difficulties to surmount and some privations inevitable, in an undertaking of such magnitude, as the transportation of such a family as yours, to such a distance, and after arrival, no doubt, until you could bring things into a regular train, you would find many things less comfortable than you have been accustomed to; yet it is but a few months and you surmount them all. There is one thing, should you think of coming over, that I would particularly recommend—that is, to bring with you a Servant on whose attachment to your family you could depend; perhaps there is nothing in this country so unpleasant to an English family, as the Servants which they must put up with here—Their wages are very high and in general they have such an idea of the equality of mankind, that their service is trifling."

N. B. In consequence of a severe family affliction—the death of a son, and other engagements, the printing of this publication had not the Editor's usual care and attention: there are, consequently, in it several trifling verbal omissions, and typographical errors, which the reader will be hopes excuse.

SELECT

LIVES, VOYAGES AND TRAVELS.

AMERICAN TRAVELLER.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BRITISH POSSESSIONS IN NORTH AMERICA.

THE British possessions in America consist of four provinces, Upper and Lower Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. The former were settled by the French and continued in their possession more than one hundred and fifty years ; but Quebec falling into the hands of the British by the gallantry of General Wolfe, the provinces became an easy conquest, and were permitted to continue British colonies by the treaty of peace, made in the year 1763. These provinces are governed by laws framed by a legislature consisting of two branches denominated the Council and the Assembly ; the former nominated by the governor, and the latter chosen by the voice of the people : the executive is vested in a governor-general and deputy ones ; the judicial authorities are appointed by the crown ; and their decision, in the respective courts, are marked with that regard to impartial justice, honour and equity, that so eminently distinguish the parent country. The expenses necessary for the support of the government are defrayed principally by Great Britain so that no country in the world is subjected to so small a portion of taxation, (no) taxes either direct or indirect being levied only on a few articles of luxury. The manners and customs of the Canadies are as opposite as those of the nations from which they have been settled. The original French settlers retain a great portion of that gaiety and frivolity peculiar to their nation, but secluded from examples of national vice, and

Religion and Climate of Canada.

leading a life comparatively retired; an honest simplicity characterises their actions, though a persevering industry is seldom to be seen, as their views are rarely extended to exalt their condition, contentedly partaking of those necessities & comforts only, which their predecessors enjoyed: nevertheless Great Britain possesses in them more faithfulness, honesty, and loyalty, than in any other colony in the catalogue of her foreign possessions. The number of inhabitants of British America scarcely exceed half a million.

Scotland has hitherto furnished the greatest number of emigrants; and settlers from that country possess extensive farms in the upper province, most of whom live respectable and happy. The English government, in conformity to its accustomed wise and indulgent policy left the French settlers in the enjoyment of their national peculiarities, without permitting any interference to create dislike to the British character, or generate a plea for disloyalty: the Roman-catholic religion is therefore tolerated and protected, and this indulgence is in no instance abused by a refractory and revolutionary spirit, or that rancour and bitter hatred to different sects which papists in other countries exhibit and cherish; but appreciate the blessings of religious and political liberty, and happy in the enjoyment of them, they cheerfully join the common cause; nor idly devote themselves to seek, in seditious theories, those blessings which they practically possess. Few places exhibit a more general regard to religious duties than Canada; Protestant churches for the devotion of Christians of that persuasion are to be found in every town, under the control and guidance of an English bishop; and inferior branches of the clergy, and a spirit of Christian piety, pervade all ranks in the colony. From the extremes of heat and cold which the climate of this country presents, many have been induced to consider it an unhealthy situation, and regarding it with fearful apprehension have relinquished the thoughts of emigrating thither: this has been increased by conceiving the hardships that must be endured, in the necessary employment of agriculture in the severities of winter, and the difficulties that must arise to prepare the land for cultivation at these inclement periods. But nature, in her provident benevolence, has counterbalanced the frowns of a winter with the smiles of an exuberant spring, and the reward of a hasty and an almost instantaneous vegetation.

The low price of land, and its abundance, contribute to make a laborious and indefatigable application to improvement less needful than in Great Britain: the soil requires but little manure,

Sleighs—Expedition mode of Conveyance.

nor is one half the preparatory labour necessary to produce crops that British land requires; and the rapid growth, and quick perfection of every species of grain, requires not that constant and protracted attendance, which a tardy maturity demands. The winter is therefore only a season of relaxation and amusement, and mostly devoted to recreation. Gloomy pictures of these fertile and capacious provinces have been drawn, which, heightened by imagination, have served to make them appear, at this season, so cheerless as almost to preclude the possibility of venturing abroad; the very reverse of this is the case; the cold is seldom so intense as to prevent travelling, which, in sleighs, is so pleasantly and speedily performed, that few people travel at any other season; the solidity of the rivers and the frozen state of the snow, make excellent roads, which are passed over with incredible swiftness, and two horses can draw, in sleds, a greater weight than four in a wheeled carriage. All large bodies of timber are conveyed to the rivers, in the winter, from the ease with which the task can be performed, and the small portion of labour and expense which are necessary, compared with what would be required at any other season. A single horse will draw a fallen tree along the glossy surface of frozen snow, with more ease and expedition than five could on the bare ground; indeed, from the impossibility of timber carriages passing through the intricacies of a thick wood, this necessary species of labour could be performed by no other means and at no other time; so that winter, with all its imaginary and exaggerated horrors, has its peculiar advantages. The crowd of sleighs that stand near the market-places of large towns, for the purpose of hire; and the display of contending dexterity in the management of hundreds passing and repassing in the environs; not only prove the practicability of recreative excursions, at this season, but serve to shew the eagerness with which they are sought, and the pleasure they afford. Stage-coaches, carriages, and chariots, are sometimes separated from the wheels, and placed on the iron-shod runners of sleighs, which afford a comfortable and an elegant mode of travelling.

Houses are kept warm by means of stoves, which are constructed with a great regard to convenience; they are closed on all sides, are of various dimensions, and generally placed in the centre of the room. Pipes or flues are attached to them, to convey warmth to the same and adjoining apartments; and most of them are calculated for culinary purposes, the centre serving

Method of procuring Sugar from the Maple Tree.

the purpose of an oven. On entering an apartment, a glow, which is diffused to all parts, is immediately felt; and the company is not compelled to form a semicircle round a fire, to endure a state between scorching and freezing, but, like the mildness of May, the enjoyment of an agreeable warmth is felt in every part. The soil of Canada consists of a rich, fertile, black mould, which not extending beyond the depth of a foot, and being loose and thin, requires but little labour to prepare for cultivation: considerable crops repay the husbandman's industry, and wheat, flour, and sea biscuit, are the exports therefrom. Grapes, raspberries, currants, and some other fruits, are indigenous; and the forests abound with walnut, chesnut, beach, oak, elm, and a variety of other trees. The maple is singularly serviceable in affording sugar. These trees are tapped in the spring, and about six weeks continue to emit a sweet juice, which by boiling acquires a consistence, and which natural or artificial heat will afterwards concrete; the flavour of sugar, thus produced, is peculiarly pleasant, and its general use (in the interior) supersedes the importation of that article. Cattle of all kinds are cheap and plentiful. Horses are small, but hardy and serviceable, and are capable of performing more labour than might be expected from their size. Being bred and inured to the climate, and unaccustomed to receive that attention and care which are bestowed on the English breed, they contract no diseases, and experience no distress from a privation of those indulgences which habit renders necessary. Warm stables, good beds, and sweet-scented hay, are comforts a Canadian seldom extends to his horse; but nature, no less kind to this portion of her creation than she is to any other, has furnished them with constitutions adapted to the climate, and she clothes them, like bears, with coats suitable to the seasons. The river St. Lawrence, which washes the Canadian shores, is ranked next to the Mississippi, and considered the second in North America: it is navigable to lake Ontario, a distance of more than seven hundred miles; but only small vessels go further than Quebec, except those in the employ of the North-west company, which proceed to Montreal. This river is thirty leagues wide at its entrance, but it ebbs and flows only ninety miles beyond Quebec, above which is a rapid current constantly running towards the sea, and which is the principal reason why large shipping go no further than that town. The island of New Orleans, situated in the St. Lawrence, a few miles below Quebec, is as desirable and fertile a spot as can be found in America.

Loyalty and Zeal of its Inhabitants.

In proceeding up the St. Lawrence, by water, the houses on the north-western shore are placed at such distances as to form the appearance of one continued street. In proceeding up the country, by land, the interspersions of streams, forests, extensive pasturage, and rich arable land, affording pleasing prospects, and very few hills intervene to make the journey irksome. The first town on the banks of the river after leaving Quebec is Three Rivers, which is frequently a great resort of Indians: here the river ceases to flow, and many small vessels take in their cargoes at this place. This town is equidistantly situated between Quebec and Montreal; contains about three thousand inhabitants, is a seat of active industry, and surrounded by a fertile level country.

The upper province like the lower one exhibits diversified scenes of natural beauty, with extensive tracts of unsettled and uncultivated land. The native worth and peculiar advantages of these provinces make them objects of envy to the United States: the richness of the soil, the innumerable streams by which they are watered, the valuable furs with which they abound, and, above all, the rise of the tides in the St. Lawrence, which affords the practicability of cutting dry docks, tempted the Americans to sacrifice all other considerations in the endeavour to annex them to her unwieldy possessions. And, while the spirit with which they were defended, reflects unfading honours on the loyalty and zeal of the inhabitants; it serves to convince mankind that a free people cannot, easily, be deprived of valuable possessions. No country holds out prospects so flattering to agriculturists as Canada; hundreds of citizens from the republican provinces, preferring real blessings to ideal ones, and choosing rather to possess property at a cheap rate, and enjoy it free from taxation, than pay a high price for land of an inferior quality, loaded and burdened with taxes, have made this their residence. The British settler is put in possession of land proportioned to his family, and a deed of it given him without fee or reward; supplies of provisions for six, twelve or twenty-four months, are granted from the public stores, where all kinds of implements necessary for husbandry are likewise bestowed; nor are settlers, whose possessions rendered rich by cultivation, and who are thereby enabled to afford assistance, backward in giving instructions and rendering support to beginners. A spirit of generosity and benevolence characterises the intercourse that subsists in these provinces; and acts of liberality calculated to add to the convenience and happiness of each other, appear emulatively reciprocal. And, since a desire of emi-

City of Quebec.

gration, at this crisis, is become more prevalent than at any former period; and there are yet some hundreds residing in this country who are determined to leave their native soil, with a view to better their condition: the undertaking requires their most serious consideration. Let them carefully examine the advantages which the British provinces offer to British settlers, the encouragement they afford, and the security they insure. Let these preponderating considerations be the touchstone of determination, which cannot fail to influence a well-directed choice, and contribute to crown a persevering industry with respectability, wealth, and happiness.

THE CITY OF QUEBEC.

(From Weld's Travels in Canada and the United States.)

THE CITY OF QUEBEC is situated on a very lofty point of land, on the north-west side of the River St. Lawrence. Nearly facing it, on the opposite shore, there is another point, and between the two the river is contracted to the breadth of three quarters of a mile, but after passing through this strait it expands to the breadth of five or six miles, taking a great sweep behind that point whereon Quebec stands.

Quebec is divided into two parts; the upper town, situated on a rock of limestone on the top of the point; and the lower town, built round the bottom of the point, close to the water. The rock whereon the upper town stands, in some places towards the water rises nearly perpendicularly, so as to be totally inaccessible; in other places it is not so steep but that there is a communication between the two towns, by means of streets winding up the side of it, though even here the ascent is so great that there are long flights of stairs at one side of the streets for the accommodation of foot passengers.

No census has been lately taken of the number of houses and inhabitants in Quebec; but it is supposed that, including the upper and lower towns and suburbs, there are at least two thousand dwellings: * at the rate of six therefore to each house, the number of inhabitants would amount to twelve thousand. About two-thirds of the inhabitants are of French extraction. The society in Quebec is agreeable, and very extensive for a place of the

* Now (1817) 4,000.

Description of Montreal.

size, owing to its being the capital of the lower province, and therefore the residence of the governor, different civil officers, principal lawyers, &c. &c. The large garrison constantly kept in it makes the place appear very gay and lively.

The lower town of Quebec is mostly inhabited by the traders who are concerned with the shipping, and it is a very disagreeable place. The streets are narrow and dirty, and owing to the great height of the houses in most of them, the air is much confined. The upper town, on the contrary, is extremely agreeable: from its elevated situation the air is as pure as possible, and the inhabitants are never oppressed with heat in summer; it is far, however, from being well laid out, the streets being narrow and very irregular. The houses are for the most part built of stone, and except a few, erected of late years, small, ugly, and inconvenient.

I must not conclude this letter without making mention of the scenery that is exhibited to the view, from various parts of the upper town of Quebec, which, for its grandeur, its beauty, and its diversity, surpasses all that I have hitherto seen in America, or indeed in any other part of the globe. In the variegated expanse that is open before you, stupendous rocks, immense rivers, trackless forests and cultivated plains, mountains, lakes, towns, and villages, in turn strike the attention, and the senses are almost bewildered in contemplating the vastness of the scene. Nature is here seen on the grandest scale and it is scarcely possible for the imagination to paint to itself any thing more sublime than are these several prospects presented to the sight of the delighted spectator.

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### MONTREAL.

(From Gray's Letters from Canada.)

MONTREAL is situated on an island; but the island is so large in proportion to the water which surrounds it, that you are not sensible of its insularity.

The island is about thirty miles in length, by about ten in breadth. The city of Montreal is situated near the upper end of it, on the south side of the island, at the distance of about one hundred and eighty miles from Quebec. It lies in latitude 45-30, being about 70 miles to the southward of Quebec. They pretend to say, that the spring is always earlier than at Quebec by near

*Advantageous situation of Montreal for Trade.*

month, and I believe it is allowed to be so. One would scarcely think that so small a difference of latitude, should produce such an effect; it would not be so in Europe; there must be some aiding cause with which we are not acquainted.

Montreal may be said to be a handsome town. Its streets are regular and airy; and contain many handsome and commodious houses. It is fully as large and as populous as Quebec, containing about 10,000 people, the great mass of whom are Canadians. Its suburbs, too, are extensive.

The island of Montreal is wholly in a state of cultivation; and it is surrounded by a country generally cultivated. What adds much to its consequence is, its being situated near the *embouchure* of several rivers, which bring down from the countries through which they flow a great deal of very valuable produce.

The river *Chambly* opens a communication with Lake Champlain, whence are received large quantities of wood, potashes, salted provisions, wheat, &c. From the river *L'Assomption* much valuable produce is brought. The river of the *Ottawais*, which forms the northern boundary of the island, opens a communication with an immense extent of country. It is through this river that the traders to the northwest territories proceed. They go in birch canoes many hundred miles up this river, till they meet with rivers which discharge in Lake Huron, from thence they get into Lake Superior, and so on to the Grand Portage, where they discharge the goods they have taken up, and are again loaded with the furs that have been got in exchange for the preceding year's investment. They do not return by the same course, but by way of Detroit, and through Lakes Erie and Ontario. Montreal is at the head of the ship-navigation from the ocean, and the *batteaux* and canoe-navigation from and to Upper Canada must commence and terminate at *La Chine* near Montreal. From these circumstances Montreal bids fair to rival Quebec in commerce: It is more convenient as a *depot* for produce. But as Quebec must ever be the great shipping place, there, *general merchants* will find many inducements to settle.

The country in the neighbourhood of Montreal is very fine. About two miles from the town there is a beautiful hill, commonly called *the Mountain*; it is about 700 feet in height from the level of the river. A part of this hill is covered with wood, but much is in a state of cultivation. I rode to the top of it, whence you have a noble view of the surrounding country, bounded by the mountains in the state of New York towards the south.

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*Hospitality to Strangers—La Chine.*


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Between the Mountain and town of Montreal, there are a great many very fine gardens and orchards, abounding with a variety of fruit of the very first quality, and no place can be better supplied with vegetables than Montreal. Quebec, too, is extremely well supplied with vegetables, and a regular succession of fruit; but cannot vie with Montreal, where both soil and climate combine to produce the finest fruit I have ever seen. The apples are particularly good. The *Pomme de Neige*, so called from its being extremely white, and from its having the granulated appearance of snow, when broken; it also dissolves, almost entirely, in the mouth like snow: the *Fameuse Bourassa*, and *Pomme Gris*, are very fine apples. Peaches, apricots and plumbs, are found in the greatest perfection; and, with the protection of the glass, you have grapes as good for the table as any I ever saw in Portugal. Currants, raspberries, gooseberries, and every sort of small fruit are found in great abundance. The markets of Montreal are extremely well supplied with all the necessaries and most of the luxuries of the table; provisions are plentiful in winter, for then their industrious neighbours the Yankees bring in great quantities, such as *fresh fish*, bacon, cheese, &c. The great distance of Quebec prevents them from receiving this sort of supply from the United States; but their own resources are copious.

The people of Montreal, in general, are remarkably hospitable and attentive to strangers; they are sociable also amongst themselves, and fond in the extreme of convivial amusements. In winter, they keep up such a constant and friendly intercourse with each other, that it seems then as if the town were inhabited but by one large family. During summer they live somewhat more retired; but throughout that season a club, formed of all the principal inhabitants, both male and female, meet every week or fortnight, for the purpose of dining at some agreeable spot in the neighbourhood of the town.

The orchards in the neighbourhood of Montreal produce apples, which yield as fine cyder as ever was drank.

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LA CHINE is situated about nine miles from Montreal. It is a place of considerable consequence, being the place where the bateaux (flat-bottomed boats) and canal navigation commences for

*Description of the Canoes used in Trade.*

Upper Canada, and for the country in the north-west. The first go by way of Lake Ontario and Niagara; the second, go up the Outawais river towards Lake Superior. They are under the necessity of commencing their voyages from La Chine instead of Montreal, because the river St. Lawrence is so rapid between Montreal and La Chine that loaded canoes cannot be forced up.

I had the pleasure of seeing both an arrival and departure of canoes from and to the north-west territories.—It certainly is a curious spectacle. It is surprising to see the great quantity of goods put in one of the large birch canoes; and it is no less surprising to think, that with such a load, and in such a vessel they should undertake a voyage of some thousand miles.

The canoe is one of the most frail conveyances you can imagine. The length of the large ones is about thirty feet; they become gradually narrow towards each end, till they terminate in a point; the bottom is rounded, and they have no keel. A frame of thin slips of wood is formed, over which they fasten sections of the bark of the birch tree. These sections are sewed together with filaments of the roots of a tree, and the seams made watertight by a species of gum, which hardens and adheres very firmly.

The canoe is constructed with much ingenuity; it is extremely light, and therefore answers the purposes for which it is intended perfectly well. The canoe is the common conveyance on the river St. Lawrence, and on the lakes: the largest, however, are used by the North-west Company, for conveying goods into the Indian territory, and bringing down furs. These cost about 20/.

The North-west Company consists of a number of merchants associated for the purposes of trading with the Indians in furs.—Those who manage the concerns of the company reside in Montreal. They send up the country large quantities of goods, to be bartered with the Indians for furs. For the conveyance of these goods, and for bringing back furs, they have employed, generally, about fifty canoes, and upwards of 1000 people. The capital employed in this trade, in goods alone, is upwards of £150,000.

The goods are made up in packages of about 80lbs. for the conveniences of stowing, and of carrying across these places, where the loaded canoe cannot pass. In many places they meet with rapids and falls, which arrest their progress: in such cases, they unload the canoe, and carry both it and its cargo to the next

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*Description of Kingston.*

canoeable water. Six men carry one of the largest canoes: its load weighs generally from four to five tons; consisting of a number of small packages, which they carry very expeditiously. These Canadian voyageurs are hardy, strong fellows: they have been known to carry at one time five packages, weighing about 80lbs. each, over a portage of nine miles.

The canoes, when they take their departure from La Chine, are loaded to within about six inches of the gunwale, or edge of the canoe. Instead of oars, they use paddles, which they handle with great dexterity. They strike off, singing a song peculiar to themselves, called the *Voyageur Song*: one man takes the lead, and all the others join in a chorus. It is extremely pleasing to see people who are toiling hard display such marks of good humour and contentment, although they know, that for more than 2000 miles their exertions must be unremitting, and their living very poor; for, in the little space allowed in the canoe for provisions, you find none of the luxuries, and a very scanty supply of the necessaries, of life. The song is of great use: they keep time with their paddles to its measured cadence, and, by uniting their force, increase its effect considerably.



*To the above Account of Montreal, &c. we subjoin the following description of KINGSTON, in Upper Canada; from WELD's Travels, in 1797.*

KINGSTON is situated at the mouth of a deep bay, at the north eastern extremity of Lake Ontario. It contains a fort and barracks, an English episcopalian church, and about one hundred houses, the most of which last were built, and are now inhabited by persons who emigrated from the United States at the close of the American war. Some few of the houses are built of stone and brick, but by far the greater part of them are of wood. The fort is of stone, and consists of a square with four bastions. It was erected by M. le Comte de Frontinac, as early as the year 1672, and was for a time called after him; but insensibly it lost his name, and received instead of it that of Cadaraqui, the name of a creek which falls into the bay. This name remained common to the fort and to the town until a few years ago, when it was

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*Trade and rapid Improvement of Kingston.*

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changed to that of Kingston. From sixty to one hundred men are usually quartered in the barracks.

Kingston is a place of very considerable trade, and it is consequently increasing most rapidly in size. All the goods brought up the St. Lawrence for the supply of the upper country are here deposited in stores, preparatory to their being shipped on board vessels suitable to the navigation of the lake; and the furs from the various posts on the nearer lakes are here likewise collected together, in order to be laden on board bateaux, and sent down the St. Lawrence. Some furs are brought in immediately to the town by the Indians, who hunt in the neighbouring country, and along the upper parts of the St. Lawrence, but the quantity is not large. The principal merchants resident at Kingston are partners of old established houses at Montreal and Quebec. A stranger, especially if a British subject, is sure to meet with a most hospitable and friendly reception from them, as he passes through the place.

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The following information the Editor received from Lieutenant O'Riley, an intelligent Naval Officer, in his Majesty's service, who left Kingston October 25, 1816.

KINGSTON, in Upper Canada, is a fine flourishing town; contains about 3,000 brick and stone houses, and 10,000 inhabitants.—1500 houses have been built since the last peace.—2,000 troops are now stationed there: the 12th, 17th, and 37th foot regiments, besides artillery, and a very considerable naval force; in consequence of which, there is a very great and constant demand for English manufactures; boots, shoes, hats, and every article of dress are in great request; wages for labour are very high; carpenters, bricklayers, masons, &c. may have their own prices—a blacksmith receives a dollar for each shoe he places on a horse's foot: the storekeepers (such as our Welsh shopkeepers) become rich, with great rapidity. Mr. Torrens, who began business, 15 years ago with 35 shillings, is now worth £40,000.

Lieutenant O'Riley described the progress of the colony as of the most extraordinary nature. The new town of Perth, only settled since the peace, has now 1,000 settlers; Drummondville 500, and New Dublin 300. Perth, only 25 miles from Kingston, Lieut. O'Riley considered as the most eligible neighbourhood for settlers, situated on the river Rideau, which having a communi-

*Liberality of Government towards Settlers.*

cation with the St. Lawrence, timber or produce can be shipped down to Montreal or Quebec with the greatest facility.

The settlers are remarkably kind and friendly: in seed or harvest time they assist each other, even ten or twelve families unite their whole strength, by which means their business is done in a short time, and at a very little expense. The climate of Upper Canada Lieut. O'R. describes as nearly the same as New York: the winters not much severer than many in England, and far more pleasant: he passed a whole winter without the use of a great coat: he describes the inhabitants as delighting in the marvellous. Accounts, similar to the above, have been given us by several other gentlemen, who had been many years in the settlement; consequently we feel no hesitation in declaring it as our opinion, that for poor farmers, bricklayers, carpenters, shoemakers, tailors, curriers of leather, blacksmiths, &c. &c. there is no place in the world more desirable than Canada.

Government very liberally bestows on settlers grants of land, allows provisions for a year or two, supplies with implements of agriculture, and encourages in every possible way it can encourage, excepting a gratuitous passage, which, for various reasons, is, at present, withheld; but which, under certain regulations and restrictions, will, we hope, be again allowed.

We shall conclude this account of Canada, with the judicious observations of Mr. Weld.

What are the general inducements may here be asked, to people to quit Great Britain for the United States? They have been summed up by Mr. Cooper\*, in his letters published in 1794, on the subject of emigrating to America; and we cannot have recourse on the whole, to better authority. Mr. C. says—

“In my mind, the first and principal inducement to a person to quit England for America, is *the total absence of anxiety respecting the future success of a family*. There is little fault to find with the government of America, that is, of the United States, either in principle or practice. There are few taxes to pay, and

\* Mr. Cooper, late of Manchester, who emigrated to America with all his family, and whose authority has been very generally quoted by the Americans who have since written on the subject of emigration.

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*Inducements to Emigration to the United States.*

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those are of acknowledged necessity, and moderate in amount.— There are no animosities about religion, and it is a subject about which few questions are asked; there are few respecting political men and political measures; the present irritation of men's minds in Great Britain, and the discordant state of society on political accounts, is not known there. The government is the government of the people, and for the people. There are no tythes nor game laws; and excise laws upon spirits only, and similar to the British only in name. There are no great men of rank, nor many of great riches; nor have the rich the power of oppressing the less rich, for poverty is almost unknown; nor are the streets crowded with beggars. You see no where the disgusting and melancholy contrast, so common in Europe, of vice and filth, and rags and wretchedness, in the immediate neighborhood of the most wanton extravagance, and the most useless and luxurious parade; nor are the common people so depraved as in Great Britain. Quarrels are uncommon, and boxing matches unknown in the streets. There are no military to keep the people in awe. Robberies are very rare. All these are real advantages; but great as they are, they do not weigh with me so much as the single consideration first mentioned."

Any person that has travelled generally through the United States must acknowledge, that Mr. Cooper has here spoken with great partiality; for as to the morality and good order that prevails amongst the people, he has applied to all of them what only holds true with respect to those who live in the most improved parts of the country.

He is extremely inaccurate also, in representing the people of the States as free from all animosities about political measures; on the contrary, there is no country on the face of the globe, perhaps, where party spirit runs higher, where political subjects are more frequently the topic of conversation amongst all classes, and where such subjects are more frequently the cause of rancorous disputations and lasting differences amongst the people. I have repeatedly been in towns where one half of the inhabitants would scarcely deign to speak to the other half, on account of the difference of their political opinions; and it is scarcely possible, in any part of the country, to remain for a few hours in a mixed company of men, without witnessing some acrimonious dispute from the same cause.

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*Mr. Cooper's inducements to Emigration considered.*

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Let us, however, compare the inducements which he holds out to people in England to leave that country for America, that is for the United States, with the inducements there would be to settle in Canada, under the premised supposition, that the land was there granted in an unexceptionable manner.

From the land being plentiful in Canada, and consequently at a very low price, but likely to increase in value; whilst in the States, on the contrary, it has risen to an exorbitant value, beyond which it is not likely to rise for some time to come; there can be no doubt but that a man of moderate property could provide for his family with much more ease in Canada, than in the United States, as far as land were his object.

In Canada, also there is a much greater opening for young men acquainted with any business or profession that can be carried on in America, than there is in the United States. The expence of settling in Canada would be far less also than in any one of the States; for in the former country the necessaries and conveniences of life are remarkably cheap, whilst, on the contrary, in the other they are far dearer than in England; a man therefore would certainly have no greater anxiety about the future success of a family in Canada than in the United States, and the absence of this anxiety according to Mr. Cooper, *is the great inducement to settle in the States, which weighs with him more than all other considerations put together.*

The Taxes of Lower Canada are of acknowledged necessity, and much lower in amount and number than those paid in the States.

There are no animosities in Canada about religion, and people of all persuasions are on a perfect equality with each other, except, indeed, it be the protestant dissenters, who may happen to live on lands that were subject to tithes under the French government; they have to pay tithes to the English episcopalian clergy; but there is not a dissenter living on tithe lands, perhaps, in the whole province. The lands granted since the conquest are not liable to tithes. The English episcopalian clergy are provided for by the crown out of the waste lands; and all dissenters have simply to pay their own clergy.

There are no game laws in Canada, nor any excise laws whatsoever.

As for the observation made by Mr. Cooper, in respect to the



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*Canada preferable to the United States for British Settlers.*

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military, it is almost too futile to deserve notice. If a soldier, however, be an object of terror, the timid man will not find himself at ease in the United States any more than in England, as he will meet with soldiers in New York, on Governor's Island, at Mifflin Fort near Philadelphia, at the forts on the North River, at Niagara, at Detroit, and at Oswego, &c. on the lakes, and all through the western country, at the different posts which were established by General Wayne.

In every other respect, what Mr. Cooper has said of the United States holds good with regard to Canada; nay more, it must certainly in addition be allowed by every unprejudiced person that has been in both countries, that morality and good order are much more conspicuous amongst the Canadians of every description, than the people of the States; drunkenness is undoubtedly much less common amongst them, as is gambling, and also quarrels.

But independent of these inducements to settle in Canada, there is still another circumstance, which ought to weigh greatly with every British emigrant, according to the opinion even of Mr. Cooper himself. After advising his friends "to go where land is cheap and fertile, and where it is in a progress of improvement," he recommends them to go somewhere, if possible, *in the neighbourhood of a few English*, whose society, even in America, is interesting to an English settler, who cannot entirely relinquish the *memoria temporis acti*;" that is, as he particularly mentions in another passage, "he will find their manners and conversation far more agreeable than those of the Americans," and from being chiefly in their company, he will not be so often tormented with the painful reflection, that he has not only left, but absolutely renounced his native country, and the men whom he once held dear above all others, and united himself, in their stead, with people whose vain boasts and ignorant assertions, however harsh and grating they may sound to his ears, he must listen to without murmuring.

Now in Canada, particularly in Lower Canada, in the neighbourhood of Quebec and Montreal, an English settler would find himself surrounded by his countrymen; and although his moderate circumstances should have induced him to leave England, yet he would not be troubled with the disagreeable reflection that he had totally renounced his native land, and swore allegiance to a

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*Account of Hartford.*

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foreign power; he would be able to consider with heartfelt satisfaction, that he was living under the protection of the COUNTRY wherein he had drawn his FIRST breath; that he was contributing to her PROSPERITY, and the WELFARE of many of his countrymen, while he was ameliorating his own fortune.

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UNITED STATES.

*HARTFORD, IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT:*

IN order to prove to our readers that we are guided by impartiality in our description of Canada, and that we have no particular prejudice against the United States; but duly anxious to direct the English Emigrant to that place where he will be most likely to meet with encouragement, protection and happiness, we have selected the following account of Hartford, the Paradise of the United States, from LAMBERT's Travels:

"We arrived at HARTFORD (says Mr. Lambert) about two o'clock, and stopped there to dine. The country through which we had passed this morning was extremely beautiful: we travelled, for the most part, over a succession of lofty hills, commanding extensive views across the country. In the midst of some beautiful plains and valleys appeared the Connecticut river, with its fruitful shores covered with innumerable habitations, surrounded by well cultivated grounds, pastures and meadow lands, orchards and gardens; all of which evinced the steady and industrious character of the inhabitants. Every mile we advanced afforded us some new objects for admiration; whether they consisted of lofty mountains, fruitful valleys, verdant lawns, meandering streams, rich farms, or populous towns; for they were more or less the materials which composed the scenery along the road to Hartford, and presented a rapid succession of rich and beautiful landscapes. I regretted only that spring had not yet removed the gloomy mantle of winter, and presented to our view the graceful charms and hidden beauties of nature.

"Our stay at Hartford was too short to admit of my collecting much information concerning the town. It appeared to be composed of regular streets, and well built houses of red brick. Order, neatness, and cleanliness seemed to be a predominant feature

*Description of Hartford.*

in the character of its inhabitants ; as was the case in all the towns and villages of this state through which I had passed. It is built on the banks of the Connecticut river, and surrounded by rich pasture and meadow ground, well cultivated cornfields, and neat dwelling-houses. It is the capital of the state of Connecticut, though the meetings of the legislature are divided between this town and Newhaven. Hartford contains a state-house, a bank, museum, some neat churches and meeting-houses, and about 10,000 inhabitants. We left the town about three o'clock, and parted reluctantly with General Bradley ; who had pleased us by his gentlemanly manners, and entertained us with his facetious and agreeable humour.

"Our stage and four horses embarked on board the flat-bottomed ferry boat ; and Charon, not content with us, took in another stage and four, in spite of our remonstrances to the contrary, which rendered our passage across the Connecticut river extremely dangerous. The waters had risen several feet above their usual level, occasioned by the melting of the snow and ice in the upper parts of the country ; and had inundated the opposite side of the river, above a mile from the shore. All the houses near the river were surrounded, and the farms laid under water. Our ferry boat had therefore to pass over fences and hedges, and between trees and houses, for more than a mile after we had crossed the river.—It was with difficulty the driver could keep his horses quiet ; and one plunge would have upset the boat, and most probably drowned us all.

"For several miles we passed through a plain level country, well cultivated, and apparently rich and fertile. The people of Connecticut are distinguished by their industry, sobriety, and œconomy ; strict piety and devotion. Travelling on Sundays is not permitted in their state, though strangers often contrive to evade the laws. Elders go about and forbid inn-keepers at their peril to suffer any person to travel ; but the latter generally keep a few horses ready saddled in the stables ; and if a traveller arrives on Sunday, he helps himself to one of the horses, and goes off by some bye-road. This manœuvre of the inn-keepers resembles that of the Quakers in paying taxes ; "Friend, thee may *take*, but I cannot *give* to thee."

"The inhabitants are almost entirely of English descent ; there being neither French, Dutch, Germans, nor other foreigners among them ; and very few even of the Irish and Scotch. The

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*Letter from Mr. John Turnbull.*

rough, frank hospitality of the English farmer is here generally met with; and though there are not many who are remarkable for *opulence*, yet the number is still less of those who are remarkable for *indigence*. The generality of the people live in easy independent circumstances; and upon that footing of equality which is best calculated to promote virtue and happiness among society. The population of the state is about 300,000, the majority of whom are Congregationalists, Episcopalians, Baptists, Quakers, and Independants. The people are said to be distinguished for their general information and learning; and the country abounds with colleges, grammar schools, and village seminaries. The select men (magistrates) are empowered to levy a fine of three dollars upon every person who neglects to send his children to school.

"The general face of the country consists of mountains, hills, plains and valleys; well watered by the Connecticut river, and a variety of smaller streams. The climate is healthy, though liable to the extremes of heat and cold. The principal productions are wheat, rye, buckwheat, Indian corn, oats, barley, flax, hemp and vegetables of all kinds. Great quantities of horned cattle, horses, sheep, swine and poultry, are also raised in this state, of a very excellent kind. Cyder is the favourite beverage of the people; and large orchards crowded with an immense variety of fruit-trees are attached to every farm in the state."

The following Extracts from authentic Letters will, no doubt, in the opinion of some of our readers, be of more importance than the Accounts of Travellers or the Observations of Editors, we therefore subjoin them:

*Extract of a Letter from Mr. John Turnbull, late of Shrewsbury, to his Mother.*

DEAR MOTHER,

BALTIMORE Dec. 2, 1816.

AFTER a passage of six weeks and two days well passed, safe, having enjoyed good health the whole of the time: We were received kindly and bade welcome to Columbia's shore. I landed on Monday and got work in two hours after. The employer heard of me & was going down to seek for me, but we met, and I am not disappointed in any thing. Labouring men get 5s. 7d. per day, and tradesmen from 7s. to 9s. a day; tailors have from four to nine dollars for making a coat. There is no want of employment here if disposed to work: provisions sell as follows: Bread of extra quality, three pound and a half for the quarter dollar: beef 3d. to 6d. a pound; cheese 3d. to 10d.; butter 13d. to 18d. at this season of the year: I had a goose to day for dinner at 2s. 9d.; potatoes, apples, & onions 4s. 6d. a bushel; tea and sugar the same as with you, but very good: rent is high: I pay for a large room 3 dollars and a half per month, but hope soon to do better.

Land sells up to the city from 20 to 100 dollars per acre. Working hours are from half-past seven o'clock in the morning till four in the evening: and one hour allowed for dinner time.

*Mrs. Turnbull's Letter.**Extract of a Letter from Mrs. Turnbull to a friend in Shrewsbury.*

BALTIMORE, December 25th, 1816.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I hope you have heard before this of our safe arrival after a passage of six weeks and two days. We were ten days on board before we sailed, which made it eight weeks on the water. I was sick only one day, which was a great mercy, as my little family required constant attention. We have all been very hearty since we landed, which was five weeks last Sunday morning. We went on shore in the afternoon to look about us—the children were so delighted, they were ready to roll about the earth and kiss the ground. It was a very fine day, which made it pleasant to them, but I felt as if I would rather abide in the ship, than go into a strange city, with three little children, and no money in my pocket, for we had but one dollar (4s. 6d.) so I leave you to guess at my feelings, for I cannot describe them; and we all wanted something fresh to eat and drink, being without so long, for we could not afford to lay in any thing to drink; but we had plenty of salt meat, potatoes, peas, oatmeal, and water, which was a great mercy; but we did not look poor, for we dressed ourselves quite smart, and the children looked so nice, that several genteel people stopped us to kiss the children and bid us welcome. Two Negro girls followed us two or three streets, and looked so wishful and pleasant at the children, and at last one of them said to me, "Pray, Madam, do you know any one that wants a girl."

If the Lord pleases to give us good health, we shall do well, as there is plenty of work, and very few good stone cutters. John might have gone to work on Monday morning, if we could have cleared out of the ship, but it was Thursday evening before he could go, but he got four dollars by Saturday, which was very acceptable.

This place is not near so large as Liverpool nor are the streets fully built up, but they are laid out quite straight, and trees planted on each side. There are many handsome houses of brick and stone, and many good shops, which they call stores. What you call huxters, sell spirits of all kinds, and beer, besides grocery. I have not tasted any good tea since I came here, and as dear as with you. The sugar is about the same price, but much sweeter and better. We have about three pounds and a half of flour for a quarter of a dollar. All kinds of butchers' meat full as well as in Shrewsbury, and much better if you can buy a quantity together, as most people do. I bought half a sheep of good meat for a dollar and half—it was capital meat. There are very few English people here—They are mostly Scotch, Irish, and Dutch. We have taken a room of a Dutch family, who are very civil. The American women are very reserved, and appear very proud. It is thought very mean for a white woman to fetch a little water from the pump, &c. There are very few white servants, and these are as proud as their employers, for a white face has no master or mistress. There is a great number of black men, women, and children, who are remarkably civil, and a many of them very good cooks; some are slaves and some free. John has sent some newspapers. You will see how unfashionably they express themselves, yet they dress very smart; the women wear no caps, but have their hair all turned back from before, and fastened with a comb upon the top of the head: they put me in mind of Miss C—, with their bonnets sticking up so high: they mostly wear bonnets in the shape of a man's hat, with a ribbon over the top, with feathers in the front, &c.

*Extract of a Letter from Mr. D. Jones to his Brother who resides near Shrewsbury.*

"Betsey lives in Wilmington, and is doing very well; Jane is married, and is doing very well; Brother Richard lives near Wilmington, farming. Dear Brother we should be glad to see you in America, where you may enjoy perfect freedom for ever. I would not give my situation and liberties for any Lord's estate in England; for I want for nothing but gratitude to make me as happy as any man in England.

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*Mr. Swain's Letter.*

"I have a handsome farm, and every thing about me. Mother rides about with me and my wife, and is as happy as the day, to see her children settled in a land of freedom. If you were here she would die happy. I hear that times are hard in England, and that the crop of wheat failed last harvest: I hope you will let me know. I live 18 miles from the City of Philadelphia, a good market, very large and handsome town. Where I live land, sells from 60 to 100 dollars per acre, and 200 miles from Philadelphia, from two to eight dollars per acre. Wages by the year £45 and board; common work from 3s. 9d. to 5s. 7d. per day; wheat £1 2s 6d per bushel, or three dollars; corn one dollar, oats 5s.: a dollar is 7s. 6d. currency, or 4s. 6d. sterling," &c. &c.

*Southampton, Pennsylvania, February 22, 1817.*

*Extract of a Letter from Mr. J. Swain, of Chippawa, Upper Canada,  
to his Brother, residing near Bridgnorth.*

"I trust you must have received some of my letters since the time John wrote. I wrote two in 1800, and one last year, but for fear they have miscarried, I will repeat the substance of what the last contained:—I informed you that I had left Pennsylvania and moved into the Province of Upper Canada, to live under the government of my old master King George; not from any political motive, but because many of my neighbours about Loyalsock did so, and also because the country is a better wheat, barley, and hay country, than that I left; another reason was, the King gives or sells land, in this province, to settlers, for 6d. per acre. 200 acres are allowed to every one when they arrive at the age of 21, either son or daughter. When you read the history of Canada, you suppose that I have changed climates to a disadvantage, as it is generally reckoned a cold country; but you must consider the extent of it is unknown, and inhabited along the River Saint Lawrence, the distance of 1500 miles, extending from west to east. It partakes of different climates, some hot and some cold. I happen to live where it is temperate, at the falls of Niagara. The state of government is nearly the same here as in the States. The distance I moved was about 200 or 250 miles. The River St. Lawrence parts the States and the King's territory of Upper and Lower Canada. I have rented a farm till such times as I can settle myself upon my own land. The farm is such as I and my family are well pleased with: it is convenient to the portage round the falls, where a great deal of merchandise has to be hauled in waggons the distance of 10 miles, where the vessels load and unload. I keep three teams on the portage and one on the farm. John drives one of the carrying teams, and has the care of the rest: I hope he will make something of it this summer: he is very attentive to it, and is perfectly sober. You will certainly think of the old proverb, (the rolling stone,) but I assure you it does not hold good altogether with me at this time. I don't remember any time that I gathered faster than I have since I came to this province. Thanks be to God my family and self enjoy health, and look as well as if they were in England. The climate of Upper Canada is much the same, and the harvest at the same time as in England. My stock this day is as follows:—6 horses, 10 oxen, 6 cows, 13 young cattle, 19 hogs, 3 sheep; crop growing 15 acres of wheat, 4 do. barley, 9 do. of oats, 2 do. flax, 2 do. peas, 1 do. of potatoes, 4 do. hemp, 8 do. of Indian corn, 25 acres of meadow land. This account will, I fear, look too much like boasting; but as you know nothing of my circumstances, and probably may be led to think that I am in want, or that poverty must have drove me from Loyalsock. I think it needful to remove such apprehensions. The Land-board has given me 200 acres of land, and the Governor, I expect, will give me 200 more. I intend to go to him and take John with me to get his grant. I am upon the point of purchasing a pretty large lot of land, which I intend, if it please God to favour my design, to be a home for my family. (2000 acres.) If I accomplish this, I hope to have some of you to come and live with me. The land is very good and easy clearing. I send this by a friend to Montreal, our seaport above Quebec. You may send to me by any vessel to the United States, but best to New York, from thence we have a regular post every two weeks: the letters will come soonest and safest this way. Let me, I beseech you, hear from



*Mr. Phillips's Letter.*

you as soon as this comes to hand. I have it in contemplation to send to you for some of your earthen-ware—plates, dishes, mugs, tea-cups, &c. &c. are very dear here; and I think I might import a few crates to good advantage. I hope I shall soon have it in my power to export some small quantity of wheat flour: great quantities are sent from this country. If you have acquaintance with any of the masters of the earthen-ware works, be so good as to enquire if they usually export, and what credit they give to foreign merchants: mention this in your next."

*Copy of a Letter from Mr. John Phillips, late of Manchester, to a friend in Shrewsbury.*

DEAR SIR,—When we parted at Shrewsbury, you much wished me to give you some information respecting Canada, and the place to which I was going to settle; I will therefore first inform you that I sailed from the Port of Glasgow, in a fortnight after we parted, and I arrived at Quebec the 19th July. I had a letter from Lord Bathurst to Governor Sir G. Drummond, and I assure you I found his excellency very obliging and civil, much more so than many of your tradesmen and half gentry. His excellency shewed me his maps, and I fixed upon a grant of land at Drummondville, about 50 miles from Montreal, and about the same distance from Three Rivers and Sorrel, and 130 miles from Quebec.

I find the country very agreeable, and the land is excellent—equal to any you have about Shrewsbury; but to a person who does not understand how land is cleared here, the sight of such immense trees would be frightful in the extreme.—I had 10 acres of my land cleared by a Yankee at 5 dollars an acre, and well done too. I expect about from 25 to 35 bushels an acre of wheat; but part of my land I have set with potatoes and other vegetables. I got my stock of Pigs and Poultry from a neighbour settler of the name of Mac Kinney, who is a Scotchman, and a downright good fellow—I shall pay him in kind. Indeed, I purchase all my little necessities on condition of paying for them out of my coming crops, and from the increase of my life stock.

Jane did not like our mode of living at first—she is now reconciled to it, and we are as COMFORTABLE as it is POSSIBLE to be—I AM SURE OF LIVING NOW and in a year or two as my farm improves, I hope to do something more than barely maintain myself. Land here does not require half the culture you bestow upon it in England: Indeed it is often too rich.

We have a great many Americans amongst us who prefer our government and our climate to their own. The winter is far from being so severe as I imagined, as there are many warm days in the coldest season. The flies are the most troublesome of any inconvenience we have here; but these are common to all America, and only tease us in the summer.

The town of Three Rivers is a borough like Shrewsbury, and they have their parties there as well as with you. Some years ago Mr. Ezekiel Hart, a Jewish merchant was elected member of our Parliament; but the gentry very much opposed him, and there are parties even yet.

I have not seen enough of Canada to give you a full description; but I can assure you I have seen NO POVERTY HERE—there is work for every one—good wages and comfort too, if they are in any degree prudent. I wish I had a few friends out of Lancashire, I should be the happiest man in existence. I preach occasionally, and am forming a little society among the settlers—I hope to be useful. When I write next, I will send you all particulars. Till when,

RINGLEY FARM,

I am, Dear Sir, yours, &c.

Drummondville, Oct. 16, 1816.

J. PHILLIPS.

P. S. The following are the prices of provisions here, which you will, I dare say, think cheap—stealing money—Potatoes 16d. per bushel; Onions 10d. per hundred; Beef from 1½d. to 4d. per lb.; Lamb 3s. 6d. per quarter; Veal 5d. per lb.; Pork 5d. per lb.; Fowls 1s. the couple; Geese 2s. 6d. each; Hares 6d. to 9d. each; Partridges 10d. per couple; Fish very cheap; Flour 18s. to 20s. per cwt.—All articles manufactured in England are dear, as the store-keepers are not content with less than *shent per shent*, as the Jews say.

J. P.

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